

# BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

# GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 9.26.00  
SUBJECT: SURRENDER OF INFANT TO AUTHORIZED FACILITY  
EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2002  
REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012

1. PURPOSE. Oregon Revised Statutes 418.017 allows a parent to leave an infant that is 30 days of age or younger, and who shows no signs of abuse, in the physical custody of an employee who works at certain locations, including police stations. Either parent may surrender the infant. The parent is not required to provide any identifying information about the infant or the parent. The purpose of this general order is to explain those steps that need to be taken to be in compliance with ORS 418.017 in the event a parent surrenders a newborn child to a member of the Beaverton Police Department.

2. POLICY. It is the responsibility of department members to familiarize themselves with ORS 418.017 as addressed within this general order and Appendix A. Department members will act in accordance with ORS 418.017 and this general order should a parent surrender a newborn into their care.

3. DEFINITIONS.

A. Authorized Facility. The following are authorized safe infant surrender facilities:

- 1) Police stations.
- 2) Sheriff offices.
- 3) Hospitals as described in ORS 442.015.
- 4) Freestanding birthing centers as defined in ORS 442.015.
- 5) Doctor's offices.
- 6) Fire departments.

B. Abuse. "Abuse" has the meaning given that term in ORS 419B.005.

C. Doctor. "Doctor" means a person licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners for the state of Oregon to practice medicine and surgery.

4. IDENTITY OF CHILD/PARENT. A parent leaving an infant at an authorized facility under the provisions of ORS 418.017 is not required to provide any identifying information about the child or parent. This does not preclude department members from asking questions concerning identity.

5. POLICE OFFICER/DEPARTMENT LIABILITY. ORS 418.017 (4) states, “If acting in good faith in receiving an infant, an authorized facility receiving an infant under this section and any agent, employee, doctor or other medical professional working at the authorized facility are immune from any criminal or civil liability that otherwise might result from their actions relating to receiving the infant. A city, county or other political subdivision of this state that operates a sheriff’s office, police station or fire station that receives an infant under this section is immune from any criminal or civil liability that otherwise might result from the actions taken by its employees or agents in receiving the infant.”

6. ACCEPTING AN INFANT. If a parent seeks to surrender their infant to a department member, the department member shall:

A. Verify that the acceptance of the infant appears to be in accordance with ORS 418.017. The department member will accomplish this by:

- 1) Estimating if the infant is 30 days of age or younger. Requesting an opinion from a doctor or EMT is appropriate if the department member is uncertain if the infant is 30 days of age or younger.
- 2) Checking the infant for any visible signs of abuse.

B. If the baby shows signs of abuse, or appears older than a 30-day-old infant, the department member shall call the Community Human Services Child Welfare Office located in Washington County.

C. If the baby reasonably appears to be 30 days of age or younger, and does not show signs of abuse, the department member shall receive the infant and proceed with the following steps:

- 1) Retrieve “A Safe Place for Newborns” packet. These packets are located in the Records Division.
- 2) Give the parent the “Letter for Parents” and the “Community Human Services Child Welfare Offices” telephone list.
- 3) Ask the parent if they would fill out a voluntary health questionnaire about the infant. If the parent chooses, they may take the form with them and fill it out later.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ACCEPTING AN INFANT. From the moment the infant is left by the parent at the Beaverton Police Department, the infant is deemed abandoned for purposes of ORS 419B.100, and the department is deemed to have protective custody of the infant under ORS 419B.150. The department can only release the infant to the Department of Human Services at this point, regardless of whether one or both parents request the return of the child into their care. In having protective custody, the department member having received the infant shall, within 24 hours, do the following:

- A. Notify the Department of Human Services, by calling the Community Human Services Child Welfare Office in Washington County, that an infant has been left at the Beaverton Police Department under subsection 1 of ORS 418.017. This should be done as soon as practicable after receiving the infant.
- B. Record the receipt of the infant on the “A Safe Place for Newborns Report Form”, which is included within the “A Safe Place for Newborns” packets kept in the Records Division. A case number is to be taken out under protective custody – newborn.
- C. Call for an EMT to do a medical examination to ensure the infant needs no immediate medical attention.
- D. Release the infant to the Department of Human Services when release is appropriate considering the infant’s medical condition.
- E. Provide the Department of Human Services with all information the Beaverton Police Department has regarding the infant, including the “A Safe Place for Newborns Report Form.” Before releasing the information, the department member is to make a copy of the report form, which is to be placed in the case file along with the police report face sheet.

8. SUBSEQUENT INQUIRIES REGARDING A SURRENDERED INFANT. If a department member receives an inquiry from a parent who previously surrendered their infant into the care of the department, the department member shall refer the parent to the Community Human Services Child Welfare Office located in Washington County.

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Chief of Police

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Date